





# The Avalanche.

O. PALMER, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1886.

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## POLITICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

### Two Supervisors.

We last week called the attention of our readers to the proceedings of the Board of Supervisors, promising in a brief review to notice some of their transactions for the past year. We desire and shall endeavor to examine the matters referred to in a business light and have no personal motive, except to do our duty to the taxpayers of the county. We first call attention to the fact that the Board of 1881 appointed a special committee "with unimpaired powers to investigate fully the matter of the robbery" etc. This committee reported the amount of the deficiency of ex-Treasurer Davis, which amount is repeatedly given in their proceedings and specifically noticed in a resolution offered by Supervisor Finn, at the special session which closed March 15th 1883, two months and more after Treasurer Woodburn had taken possession of the office. Here we ask, how did the Board ascertain this amount if there had not been a complete examination of the books and vouchers in that office?

Furthermore, on the 23d of April the Board by resolution of Supt. Richardson empowered the prosecuting Attorney to employ an expert to examine the books during the entire term of Treasurer Davis, which was done, though no report has ever been made by the Board.

We assume that perfect and complete examinations of the entire transactions of ex-Treasurer Davis had been made and reported to the board, first by a committee of their own, and next by the expert employed, but those reports were kept from the record, though the bills audited and paid show that a large sum of money had been expended by the committees in the special work.

We do not at present care to say anything as to the amount expended in these investigations, as the matter is yet unsettled and may, in the end show the extreme wisdom of the Board and committee, but with the facts above enumerated we call your attention to the last annual session, commencing in October 1885 and closing with the adjourned session of two weeks ago.

On the second day of the session a committee was appointed to settle with the Treasurer. Two days thereafter immediately after roll call, Supervisor Richardson gave notice that on the following morning he would move a final adjournment, thus showing that he considered the business of the session nearly completed, when on motion of Supt. Finn the Board adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M. to give the committee on settlement time to report. No report was ready in the afternoon and the Board adjourned to the next morning. During that day, Saturday, no report was made and after transacting the business on hand, the Board adjourned to Monday P. M., when after roll call a petition was received and Supt. Finn moved an adjournment to the next morning to give the committee on settlement time to complete their report. No report was forthcoming that day, or the next, when the Board adjourned to the second Monday in January.

The committee were in session the entire week previous to the meeting of the Board, but as will be seen by the proceedings published last week were not yet ready with the report, and the first three sessions of the Board show no business transacted except roll call and the adoption of a motion to adjourn to give the committee time, and when finally the report is made, there is only given a partially itemized report of the quarter ending Jan. 1st 1885, as made by the committee, and a summary in one line, of the entire three quarters of Treasurer Woodburn's term. There appears of record no report of the treasurer in any form. Although the record shows that such report was received and accepted Oct. 14. The report of the committee as recorded gives a "balance forwarded" Jan. 1st 1885 of \$11,838.01 and shows only \$9,320.52 as coming in to the hands of Mr. Woodburn, making no statement concerning this difference.

The statute says, Sec. 451, Howell: "They shall cause to be made out and published yearly immediately after their annual meeting, in at least one newspaper if there be one published in the county, a full statement of the accounts allowed, and a full statement of the amounts of the treasurer's account on the last settlement, as on his balance sheet and account current in making the settlement." Sec. 478 says: "It shall be the duty of every such Board of Supervisors, as often as once in each year, to examine the accounts of the treasurer of their county, and to ascertain and enter upon their records a full statement of such accounts."

With these plain provisions of statute in view, we ask why the entire report of Mr. Woodburn, which was completed at the proper time is suppressed? Why was an expense of over \$200 incurred by the action of this special committee in examining the books of ex-Treasurer Davis, which had already been repeatedly done and reported upon?

No one claims that there is any fraud in the books of either of these gentlemen and we say that the entire work

of the committee should have been completed in a single day during the October session.

We do not impute dishonest motives to the members of the Board or the committee, but more charitably place the fault in a lack of business knowledge and the application of business principles in the transaction.

What the taxpayers most desire in the report of the Board is the financial part, and if from this report just published they can derive any satisfactory knowledge they are wiser than we.

### WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, '86.

EDITOR AVANCE:—Although the present Congress began quietly, proceedings at the Capitol became more animated with each week. In the Senate there has been an immense amount of oratory on the silver question from democrats who felt constrained to differ from the president and advocate continued coinage.

The majority of the House of Representatives, coerced by the contingency of possible republican restoration before 1888, adopted the measure they once rejected, and now the House President's signature bill is ready for the President's signature. The first division of the session on party lines, took place over this bill, leading to a little filibustering and several roll calls.

The opinion prevails among public men of all political shades that the present session will be the liveliest for many years, although it may not be marked by much legislation beyond its appropriation bills. It is thought there is no chance of the House and Senate agreeing to any general tariff bill, and on all questions of currency and coinage there is great diversity of opinion in both parties.

Some of the ablest leaders of the republican party are in the Senate and as the republicans retain control of that body they will protect and promote the interests of the party. Still it will be almost impossible for any measure, of a distinctively party character, to become a law during the life of the Forty-ninth Congress. The democratic majority in the House, and the republican majority in the Senate each stands as an effective bar to party legislation. There can be no bargain, no compromise, no agreement or arrangement by which any bill intended merely to carry out the pledges of a campaign platform, and manufacture political capital can escape defeat. The most inexperienced new member knows this as well as the veteran member, and the country knows it so thoroughly that it will not be disposed to tolerate a waste of time in attempts at the impossible. For this reason the Democrats, who are getting ready to agitate certain questions that promise no practical results, have been admonished to let them alone, and take up subjects on which both parties can agree.

In a Senatorial republican caucus the relations between the President and the Senate were discussed, and the action to be taken upon his nominations in cases of suspension, and particularly the course to be pursued in regard to obtaining explanations for removals and appointments. It was practically decided that if the President and heads of Departments do not produce the required information, the nominations are to be shelved for the present. "We can stand it as long as the President can," said one of the Senators, "and if there is a deadlock, we are prepared for it."

Notwithstanding all that has been said and written on the subject of Civil Service appointments, the pressure for office is as great now as it has ever been. Office-seekers pay no attention to what is said to them by their Congressional friends, and refuse to believe that the hands of Congress are in any way tied by the Civil Service law. Some of them refuse to take "no" for an answer, and continue to harass their indorsees day and night.

Senators have been discussing Neponism in connection with the Judicial Salary bill. One section of the bill provides that no person related within the degree of first cousin to a Judge of the United States shall be appointed by such Judge to any position in his court, and it also legislates out of office the relations now in. Senator Edwards thought it would work great hardship and injustice to legislate out of office men who by experience and training had perhaps come to be the most capable and efficient persons who could be found to fill the offices. If so much was said of Judges who had appointed kinemen to office, he thought Senators should remember that they had provided for their own sons and other relatives in the same way. "Even this reform Administration," continued the Senator from Vermont—"this reform Administration, the picture of purity and grace, and everything that is lovely, has sent to the Senate for confirmation the nomination of a father and son to the same place, to exercise the functions of two officers, the one under the other."

On Saturday afternoon, social festivities at the White House were interrupted by the announcement of the sudden death of Miss Bayard, the eldest daughter of the Secretary of State. She was to have assisted at Mrs. Cleveland's reception at three o'clock P. M., and when, at two o'clock, she was called to dress for this occasion, she was found lying on the bed dead of heart disease.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, CRAWFORD CO. MICH.

ADJOURNED SESSION, JAN. 11, '86.

(Continued from last week.)

Supervisor Richardson moved a final adjournment, which was lost.

Moved by Supervisor Willett that the Clerk and Chairman be instructed to draw order for the payment of having the Tract Book written up; and that they also be instructed to draw orders quarterly to pay the stenographer, commencing from January 1st, 1886.

Motion prevailed.

The following report was upon motion of Supervisor Willett, accepted:

GRAYLING, MICH., Jan. 13, '86. To the chairman and gentlemen of the Board of Supervisors of Crawford County:

I have in accordance with your instructions transcribed the Tract Book, which I respectfully ask you to inspect.

Yours Very Truly,  
O. J. BELL,  
Register of Deeds.

Moved by Supervisor Finn that we adjourn until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Motion lost.

Moved by Supervisor Rawlins that we adjourn until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Motion lost.

The committee on claims and accounts submitted the following report, which was upon motion of Supervisor I. H. Richardson, accepted, and adopted so far as relates to all bills recommended to be allowed.

GRAYLING, MICH., Jan. 13th '86. To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Crawford County, now in session:

Your committee on claims, to whom was referred the following bills, would respectfully report as follows:

John L. Wild, deputy shiff. fees. Amount charged \$1.32; amount allowed..... \$ 1.32

Richmond & Backus, Tract Book. Amount charged, \$12.00; amount allowed..... 12 00

H. C. Thompson, wife fees. Amount claimed, \$10.26; amt allowed..... 10 26

R. P. Forbes, Supt. of Poor service. Amount c'd. \$2.00; amount allowed..... 2 00

Kalamazoo Publishing Co., Books, Probate. Amount c'd. \$102.90; referred back.....

F. A. Myers, dep. shiff. fee. Amount claimed, \$2.00; referred back.....

Hilling Bros., Books, Am't. allowed, \$11.87; Amount c'd. 14 81

A. Price, Juror, Justice Court. Amount claimed, 50 cents; amount allowed..... 50

George Forbes, Juror's fee. Amount claimed, 50 cents; amount allowed..... 50

P. Mosher, Juror's fee. Amount claimed, 50 cents; amount allowed..... 50

Wm. Woodburn, office charges. Amount claimed \$17.51; amount allowed..... 17 51

Wm. Rawlins, Committee Work. Amount claimed, \$9.38; amount allowed..... 9 38

W. Patterson, Supt. of the Poor. Amount claimed, \$8.38; amount allowed..... 8 38

O. J. Bell, Transcribing Tract Book. Am't c'd. \$32.00; amount allowed..... 32 00

W. C. Johnson, special committee work. Amount claimed, \$26.64; Referred back.....

O. J. Bell, postage and expressage. Amount claimed, \$7.99; amount allowed..... 7 99

Selling, Hanson & Co., supplies. Amount claimed \$6.23; amount allowed..... 6 23

I. H. Richardson, spec. com. work. Amount c'd. \$20.04; referred back.....

F. P. Richardson, reports. Amount claimed; \$4.00; referred back.....

A. C. McGill, dep. sheriff's fees. Amount c'd. \$6.50; amount allowed..... 4 50

J. F. Ham, sheriff's fees. Amount claimed, \$10.15; amt allowed..... 7 15

Kalamazoo Publishing Co., supplies. Amount c'd. \$13.41; amount allowed..... 13 41

J. M. Finn, spec. com. work. Amount claimed, \$1.50; amt. allowed..... 1 50

O. Palmer, clerk for special committee. Amount claimed \$4.00; amount allowed..... 4 00

F. H. Hanks, special committee work. Amount claimed \$27.12; referred back.....

Yours respectfully,  
DUANE WILLETT,  
J. MAURICE FINN,  
PETER ABELI, Com.

Moved by Supervisor Finn that the bill of F. A. Myers, be allowed at 75 cents.

Motion prevailed.

Moved by Supervisor Finn that the clerk be instructed to inform the Kalamazoo Publishing Company that the County will pay the bill of \$100.00 for books at once, provided said company will deduct 7 per cent. therefrom, and that the clerk and chairman draw an order for the same if accepted.

Motion prevailed.

Moved by Supervisor F. P. Richardson, that we now adjourn until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Motion lost.

Moved by Supervisor Finn, that we adjourn until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

Motion lost.

Moved by Supervisor F. P. Richardson, that we now adjourn until 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Motion prevailed.

AFTERNOON SESSION, JAN. 13.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. T. E. Hastings in the chair. Roll called. Quorum present.

Moved by Supervisor F. P. Richardson, that we now dispose of the bills referred back to the Board.

Motion prevailed.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, that the bill of I. H. Richardson for \$20.04, be allowed as charged. The ayes and nays being called resulted in the adoption of the motion by the following vote:

Supervisors Aebli, F. P. Richardson, Finn, Rawlins, Johnson, I. H. Richardson and Hastings voted aye.

Supervisor Willett voted nay.

Moved by Supervisor Willett, that the bill of Supervisor F. P. Richardson amounting to \$1.00, be allowed at \$2.00.

Motion prevailed.

Moved by Supervisor I. H. Richardson, that the bill of W. C. Johnson, amounting to \$26.64, be allowed as charged.

The ayes and nays being called, resulted in the adoption of the motion as appears by the following vote:

Supervisors Aebli, F. P. Richardson, Finn, Rawlins, Johnson, Hanksinson and I. H. Richardson voted aye.

Supervisors Willett and Hastings voted nay.

Moved by Supervisor I. H. Richardson, that the bill of Frank Hanksinson amount \$37.12, be allowed as charged.

The ayes and nays being called, resulted in the adoption of the motion as appears by the following vote:

Supervisors Aebli, F. P. Richardson, Finn, Rawlins, Johnson, Hanksinson, and I. H. Richardson voted aye.

Supervisors Willett and Hastings voted nay.

Moved by Supervisor Finn, that we adjourn until 7:30 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Motion lost.

Moved by Supervisor Finn, that we adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

The ayes and nays being called resulted in the adoption of the motion, as appears by the following vote:

Supervisors Aebli, F. P. Richardson, Rawlins, Johnson, Hanksinson and I. H. Richardson voted aye.

Supervisors Finn, Hastings and Willett voted nay.

MORNING SESSION, JAN. 14.

Board met pursuant to adjournment. T. E. Hastings in the chair. Roll called. Quorum present. Minutes of yesterday's session read and approved.

Moved by Supervisor I. H. Richardson that the Clerk be instructed to purchase a barrel of oil for the use of the Court House, and the Clerk and Chairman draw orders for the same when delivered.

The ayes and nays being called, resulted in a loss of the motion as appears by the following vote:

Supervisors Rawlins, F. P. Richardson, I. H. Richardson and Hastings voted aye.

Supervisors Aebli, Finn, Hanksinson, Johnson and Willett voted nay.

The following preamble and resolution was upon a vote of the ayes and nays adopted by the following vote:

Supervisors Willett, Rawlins, Aebli, I. H. Richardson, Hanksinson and Hastings voted aye.

Supervisors F. P. Richardson, Finn and Johnson voted nay.

Whereas the township of Beaver Creek has been put to the exp use of defending suits commenced by Babcock & Engelman for State and County tax collected by said township, and said township was deprived from any counsel or aid from said county. Therefore be it resolved that the said County of Crawford refund to the Township of Beaver Creek, a sum of money in proportion to the amounts of County and State tax in said suits.

Signed, T. E. HASTINGS.

Moved by Supervisor I. H. Richardson, that the several bills of Supervisors be passed upon.

Motion prevailed.

T. E. Hastings, services as Sup. \$13.44

I. H. Richardson, " " 14 52

Duane Willett, " " 15 20

Wm. Rawlins, " " 15 38

J. M. Finn, " " 12 12

F. Hanksinson, " " 13 56

F. P. Richardson, " " 13 32

W. C. Johnson, " " 13 32

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